

Introduced by Senators Kehoe and Ducheny
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Salas)

April 7, 2008

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 102—Relative to Justice for Janitors Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 102, as introduced, Kehoe. Justice for Janitors Day.

This measure would designate June 15, 2008, as Justice for Janitors Day to encourage California residents, property owners, businesses, and government entities to support the Service Employees International Union's Justice for Janitors in its 2008 contract campaign and in its fight to win and maintain family health care coverage and improved wages and benefits for janitors.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, For more than two decades, the Service Employees
- 2 International Union's Justice for Janitors movement has helped
- 3 low-wage workers achieve social and economic justice and earn
- 4 broad based support from the public as well as religious, political,
- 5 and community leaders; and
- 6 WHEREAS, More than 225,000 janitors in cities throughout
- 7 the United States have united in the Service Employees
- 8 International Union, America's largest union of property service
- 9 workers; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Over the years, Justice for Janitors has worked to
- 11 provide better wages, basic benefits, job security, and a better
- 12 quality of life for janitors, who clean the facilities of some of the
- 13 largest global companies in major cities and suburbs; and

1 WHEREAS, Public employee pension funds are major investors
2 in buildings and properties cleaned by janitors represented by
3 Justice for Janitors; and

4 WHEREAS, Justice for Janitors has been campaigning for
5 “responsible contractor” policies that require janitorial contractors
6 to respect the rights of workers and to pay decent wages and
7 benefits; and

8 WHEREAS, Pension funds and brokerage companies that invest
9 moneys in real estate are increasingly requiring the contractors
10 who maintain their buildings to adhere to these responsible
11 contractor policies and the use of these policies continues to move
12 into the business mainstream, represented by more than four
13 hundred billion dollars (\$400,000,000,000) in real property assets;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In recent years, Justice for Janitors, through its
16 partnership with responsible cleaning contractors, the Maintenance
17 Cooperation Trust Fund, state labor agencies, and local district
18 attorneys, has recovered millions of dollars in lost overtime and
19 minimum wages for thousands of janitors in California, Arizona,
20 Nevada, Texas, New Mexico, and Illinois; and

21 WHEREAS, In California, Justice of Janitors represents workers
22 in the Silicon Valley, the entire San Francisco Bay area, and the
23 Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Sacramento;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, On June 15, 1990, janitors in Los Angeles were
26 beaten by police during a peaceful demonstration against a cleaning
27 contractor and the public outrage that was generated from this
28 incident resulted in the contractor signing a union contract soon
29 afterward and recognizing the Service Employees International
30 Union as the bargaining agent for the janitors; and

31 WHEREAS, In remembrance of June 15, 1990, Service
32 Employees International Union janitors and supports take action
33 every June 15 in cities nationwide and around the world; and

34 WHEREAS, In 2008, all of California’s union janitors will be
35 seeking better health care, improved wages to keep up with the
36 rising cost of living, and justice through collective bargaining to
37 improve their lives and the lives of their families; and

38 WHEREAS, Seventy-Five percent of janitors in San Diego have
39 no family health care coverage, resulting in the only major market

1 where the majority of janitors are not provided family health care
2 coverage; and

3 WHEREAS, Justice for Janitors will be seeking support from
4 the hi-tech and bio-tech companies where janitors work, and from
5 building owners and private equity investors whose buildings are
6 cleaned by cleaning companies; and

7 WHEREAS, Justice for Janitors will be seeking support from
8 businesses, government agencies, and individuals who are tenants
9 of those building owners and private equity investors; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates June 15, 2008,
13 as Justice for Janitors Day in the State of California and that
14 California residents, property owners, businesses, and government
15 entities are encouraged to support the Service Employees
16 International Union's Justice for Janitors in its 2008 contract
17 campaign and in its fight to win and maintain family health care
18 coverage and improved wages and benefits for janitors; and be it
19 further

20 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.